

Studies in Glory #5: The Glory of Man, and of the Sons of God

What is the Glory of Man?

Human Accomplishment, Acclaim, and Honor

The Bible speaks of the external and visible glory of Joseph, of Solomon, or even of Nebuchadnezzar, which glory all came to nothing. God's glory is internal and inherent to his very being, so is eternal and unfading. It radiates like light. Man's glory is earned by accomplishments, abilities, appearance, inheritance, etc. and is therefore temporary and fading. It is shown by external signs – a bridal gown, trophies, a crown or scepter, a tiara, awards banquets, cover photos, wealth, etc. Without that, who could tell the difference between Queen Elizabeth and a cleaning lady?

- Ps. 49:16-17 – “Be not afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.”
- Pr. 20:29 – “The glory of young men is their strength ...”

Human glory is fleeting – a woman's beauty fades, and a man's strength diminishes. Perhaps this is a good thing. If a person lives long enough, he is forced to admit his weakness and that the things he once gloried in have become nothing but memories. Hopefully this would cause him to seek God for the glory that is eternal in the heavens, the “inheritance that fadeth not away” (1 P. 1:4). We encourage people not to wait so long, because there is no guarantee that they will live long enough to “repent later”, or that they really would repent if they did live long enough.

What is the Glory of the Sons of God?

- **That we can really know and experience God in this life**

Jer. 9:23-24 – “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.”

1 Cor. 1:29-31 – “That no flesh should glory in his presence ... that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

- **God himself is our glory**

Jer. 2:11 – “Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.”

Ps. 3:3 – “But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory and the lifter up of mine head.”

Isa. 28:5 – “In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people.”

Zech. 2:5 – “For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.” (speaking of a restored Jerusalem)

- **We were created for the purpose of bringing glory to God**

Isa. 43:7 – “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”

- **Our salvation**

Our forgiveness, redemption, deliverance, and salvation comes from God looking upon us in his mercy, and allowing his glorious presence to shine upon us. We were going our own way to destruction, and God sovereignly stopped us, turned us around and looked upon us. By that, we were able to see our own destitution, filth, corruption, and sin, and respond to his gift of repentance and faith.

Ps. 21:5 – (of David the king) “His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.”

Ps. 80:19 – “Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.”

- **Holy living**

Pr. 16:31 – “The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.”

1 Cor. 6:19-20 – “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

We will be forever a reflection of God’s glory in saving us, even by the clothes we wear – we will be clothed in shining and fine linen, which is the righteousness of the saints.

- **Being the salt and light of the world; declaring his glory to the heathen**

1 Chr. 16:24, 27 – “Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations. ... Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.”

- **True worship and praise**

1 Chr. 16:28-29 – “Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Ps. 50:23 – “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.”

Ps. 66:2 – “Sing forth the honour of his name; make his praise glorious.”

In some verses it even appears that the tongue itself is referred to as “my glory”. Our tongues should be instruments of bringing glory to God.

Ps. 16:9 – “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.”

Ps. 30:12 – “To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.”

Ps. 57:7-9 – “... I will sing and give praise. Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.”

Ps. 108:1 – “O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.”

- **Earthly blessings from God**

Ps. 84:11 – “For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

We do not see the things of this world as having true and eternal value, but God provides good things for us to enjoy, and we should accept them as loving gifts from him, and as a means of blessing others. 1 Tim. 6:17 – “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.”

- **After death, our life with Christ in Paradise and ultimately in the New Jerusalem**

Ps. 73:24 – “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory”

Isa. 62:1-3 – “For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.”

Mt. 13:43 – “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”